Ban on polythene bags

†949. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chhattisgarh Government has sent any proposal to the Central Government, to ban the use of polythene bags;

(b) if so, the main issues raised therein;

(c) the policy of Government in this regard; and

(d) the details of action being taken by Government with regard to the use of polythene?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) So far, no proposal has been received by the Central Govt. from the Chhattisgarh Government to ban the use of polythene bags.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Environment & Forests has notified the Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. These Rules prohibit the use of carry bags and containers made of recycled plastics for storing, carrying, dispensing or packaging of foodstuff.

The rules also prescribe a minimum thickness of 20 microns for both virgin and recycled carry bags. In addition to the above, the Bureau of Indian Standards have also laid down a number of standards on use of polythene.

Reconsideration of order on BT Cotton

950. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gujarat State Biotechnology Coordination Committee has represented to the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) to reconsider their order on BT. Cotton;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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†. Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.